

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 6 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not narrowing amendments. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 – 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koopmans (U.S. Pat. No. 6,845,901). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that Claim 1 as amended recites a driving control means to control the driving of the driving mechanism based on a carry velocity of the carried member wherein the driving control means maintains a constant relative velocity between the carried member and the heater. Koopmans does not teach, suggest, or disclose a driving control means that maintains a constant relative velocity between a carried member and a heater.

The Koopmans reference includes a movable heat source. As noted by the examiner, the reference is silent about the direction of conveyor movement. The reference is also silent about the velocity of the conveyor. As such, the Koopmans reference is silent as to controlling a velocity of a driving mechanism based on a carry velocity of a carried member. Further, the Koopmans reference does not teach, suggest, or disclose maintaining a constant relative velocity between a carried member and a heater.

Therefore, claim 1 defines over the prior art, as discussed above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested. With regard to claims 2 through 6, Applicant notes that each either directly or indirectly depends from claim 1, which defines over the prior art, as discussed above. Therefore, claims 2 through 6 also define over the prior art, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

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By: _____

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